

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating a patient to decrease the likelihood of developing or the progression of Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of an inhibitor of memapsin 2 having an K_i of less than or equal to 10^{-7} M or which binds to crystallized enzyme characterized by the parameters in Table 2 when bound to OM-99-2.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is administered orally.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor blocks cleavage of APP.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is modeled using a computer program based on the crystallization coordinates of memapsin 2.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is modeled using a computer program based on the parameters for memapsin shown in Table 2.
6. The method of Claim 1 comprising creating a data base of data obtained by modeling more than one inhibitor based on the crystallization coordinates of memapsin 2 or parameters of Table 2.